Sl. No.	Name of State/U.T.	Total Loans	Agriculture & Allied Activities Loans	% of Total Loans
25.	Nagaland	37.53	14.22	37.89
26.	Orissa	4794.99	1814.79	37.85
27.	Pondicherry	243.29	79.56	32.70
28.	Punjab	18507.68	11323.89	61.18
29.	Rajasthan	8208.06	5178.32	63.09
30.	Sikkim	82.14	6.21	7.56
31.	Tamilnadu	18860.35	10328.75	54.76
32.	Tripura	186.93	48.97	26.20
33.	Uttar Pradesh	18405.27	11694.22	63.54
34.	Uttaranchal	1798.34	753.25	41.89
35.	West Bengal	4849.87	2065.61	42.59

Increase in prices of gold and silver

1562. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of gold and silver are rising tremendously in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring down the prices of gold and silver;

(d) whether Government are aware that unaccounted money is being invested in these two precious metals; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to arrest this phenomenon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The price of gold per 10 grams in India from an average of Rs. 5,192 in April 2003 rose to touch Rs. 10,000 in second week of May, 2006. Silver prices, which remained stable during 2003 at an average of Rs. 8130 per kg. increased to over Rs. 20,000 in the second week of May, 2006. the movements in prices

of gold and silver in India are generally in tandem with similar movements in international markets. The rise in the prices in the recent periods in India largely reflects the rise in international markets.

(c) to (e) According to World Gold Council, total consumer demand for gold in India during 2005 amounted to 724 tonnes. The major portion of gold jewellery demand in India is met out of imports, as domestic production is almost negligible. Government has already reduced import duty on gold concentrate to 2 per cent. Provisions are there in the Mineral policy, 1993 in which preference is given to those who propose to take up mining for captive use. Precious metals reportedly provide a convenient store for unaccounted money; Government has stepped up efforts to unearth such tax evasion through tracking of expenditures.

Linking of Security Papers to Connected Accounts

1563. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4028 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd May, 2006 and State:

(a) whether security papers of some guarantors have been linked to connected accounts without any justification and without having obtained consent from guarantors;

(b) if so, what are the details of such accounts where guarantors have not been informed of connected liability;

(c) whether Punjab and Sind Bank have received complaints about guarantors being linked to other accounts deliberately; and

(d) if so, the details of such complaints and action taken to ensure that security papers are released to guarantors where liability have been recovered fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Punjab & Sind Bank has reported that there is one such complaint by Mr. S.K. Ohri, Guarantor in the matter of PSB v/s Kunal Construction Co.